

**01941**

**1996/03/05**

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EU

2.31

ERRORS= n/a

CONCEPTS= n/a

TAGS= PREL, MOPS, CH, JA, TW

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PTQ0946

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR Date: 10 Oct 97  
☐ RELEASE ☐ DECLASSIFY  
☒ EXCISE ☒ DECLASSIFY EO Citations  
☐ DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions B1 TS authority to  
PA Exemptions CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C Sec.  
DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AIT-03 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00  
DOEE-00 ANHR-01 SRPP-00 FBIE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00  
L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-00  
PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00  
T-00 USIE-00 SA-01 PMB-00 DRL-09 G-00 /028W  
IFC4A3 051102Z /38

O 051054Z MAR 96  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9737  
INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AIT TAIPEI 0051  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

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E.O. 12958: DECL: (1.6X5)

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, CH, JA, TW

SUBJECT: HASHIMOTO CONVEYED CONCERN TO LI PENG OVER TAIWAN

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JAMES R. SASSER. REASON:

1.5 (B)

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2. (C) SUMMARY: THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT TAIWAN WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE RECENT FORTY-MINUTE LI PENG-HASHIMOTO INTRODUCTORY MEETING IN BANGKOK. THE CHINESE WERE REPORTEDLY CONCERNED OVER A POTENTIAL POST-ELECTION LEE VISIT TO JAPAN, WHILE THE JAPANESE REMAINED WARY OF A POSSIBLE "MISCALCULATION" DURING EXPECTED CHINESE MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT. AMBASSADOR SATO EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT

END SUMMARY.

3. (C) JAPANESE AMBASSADOR PETER SATO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AT A MARCH 4 GET-ACQUAINTED LUNCH THAT CHINESE AND JAPANESE LEADERS REMAINED CONCERNED OVER EACH OTHER'S INTENTIONS TOWARD TAIWAN. SATO SAID THAT LI PENG HAD A "GOOD CONVERSATION" WITH JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, RYUTARO HASHIMOTO, AT THEIR INITIAL MEETING DURING THE MARCH 1-2 ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) IN BANGKOK AND THAT TAIWAN WAS A MAJOR TOPIC.

4. (C) SATO SAID THAT LI PENG SOUGHT A JAPANESE OFFICIAL GUARANTEE THAT LEE TENG-HUI WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO VISIT JAPAN AT SOME POINT AFTER THE MARCH 23 ELECTION.

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(NOTE: ACCORDING TO

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JAPANESE AND WESTERN PRESS REPORTS. HASHIMOTO ALSO PLANNED TO URGE CHINESE "SELF-RESTRAINT" OVER TAIWAN AT THE SAME MEETING.)

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5. (C) AMBASSADOR SATO SAID [REDACTED]

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6. (C) IN SPEAKING OF ANTICIPATED CHINESE MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT, SATO NOTED THAT JAPAN EXPECTED NO MAJOR PROBLEMS TO DEVELOP. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TOKYO HAS CONCERNED OVER A POSSIBLE "MISCALCULATION OR ACCIDENT" DURING THE EXERCISES. SATO SAID [REDACTED]

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7. (C) ON OTHER ISSUES, SATO SAID HE ANTICIPATED NO MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP DURING THE ONGOING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. HE CLOSED BY SUGGESTING THAT THE TWO EMBASSIES MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN POLICY. SASSER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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